

Farm News

By: Tom Mills
County Extension Agent
for Agriculture

Slugs: Easy to Find, Hard to Control

Thin shiny trails and chewed plants are sure signs that slugs have begun foraging in your greenhouse or float beds. While it is easy to spot signs of their visits, these frequent pests are hard to control.

Slugs ooze a slimy, sticky substance that leaves a telltale shiny trail as proof of nocturnal visits when they use rasping mouthparts to feed on plants. What makes control difficult is that they must feed on and ingest a toxic substance; contact alone won't control them. These pests emerge from the soil or surrounding area to enter greenhouses and float beds this time of year because temperatures are cool enough for them to be out. They usually forage at night, but might emerge during the day after a cooling shower if the temperature remains steady or declines. When temperatures rise, slugs crawl down into hiding places to rest and absorb water through the skin. Slugs are so sensitive to temperature that they can detect changes as gradual as two degrees F. per hour.

Several management practices can help control slugs. Since slugs are sensitive to air currents, improved ventilation might make them move. Slugs turn toward a gentle breeze

and extend their antennae. However, as the breeze becomes stronger, they turn away from the source, probably to escape dehydration. Slugs usually hide in moist, dark areas during the day to remove extraneous vegetation, trash piles or other materials that provide shelter or food.

Slugs will feed on just about any kind of plant. The larger ones eat irregular holes in foliage, while the immature ones chew on surface tissue. Since slugs and snails can eat several times their body weight in a night, they can cause serious damage in a short period of time. This damage often is blamed on cutworms or other insects, but the slime trail is a sure sign slugs were the real culprits.

To control slugs, use a bait that contains methalddehyde. Slugs feed intermittently so several applications will be needed for control. For best results, apply baits in the afternoon. Place baits in areas where slugs will find them such as under a board, pot or leaf. Since methalddehyde is more effective under dry conditions, delay watering until the next day.

Baits with methalddehyde can attract slugs from up to three feet

away. The toxic effects apparently are caused primarily from dehydration. Under wet conditions,

slugs might be able to absorb enough moisture to compensate for reaction to the bait.

Helping Children Cope With Stress

By: Hazel Jackson
County Extension Agent for
Family and Consumer Science

Stress is a response to change or conflict. It is usually considered to be negative and damaging. However, not all stress is bad. Competing in sports and achieving in school or at work are examples of positive stressors. Stress becomes negative when the pressures surrounding these and other situations become too great or when several small stressors occur at once and one can no longer adjust. It is becoming evident that this type of stress overload is taking its toll on children as well as adults.

How your child reacts to stress depends upon both your child and the source of stress. Many children have survived catastrophes without permanent emotional or psychological damage, while other children cannot easily adjust to less traumatic experiences. The personality of the child, as well as available support from family members, plays a major role in the child's ability to handle stressful situations.

Recognizing stress reactions in children is not always easy. Even if

you regularly discuss issues with your children, you may discover that they are slow to talk about problems that trouble them. Children think the world revolves around them; therefore, they sometimes feel they cause events. Often these events are not positive, and children end up feeling misplaced guilt. Children may be scared or embarrassed to mention problems or negative feelings, especially if life at home is unsettled. You must not depend on words alone to signal when your child is upset. A child will often deny being troubled. Changes in behavior and personality are better signs of stress overload in children.

In most cases, you can help your child cope with pressures of childhood by using some of the following techniques:

- Think of how you react to stress. Children learn from imitating the actions of parents and other adults. You may be surprised to discover that your child reacts to pressures the same way you do.
- Try to remember what it was like to be your child's age. Only by

looking at the problem through your child's eyes can you grasp your child's feelings, reactions, and fears. Do not deny or make fun of your child for his or her worries. These worries are real to your child and need your attention.

Talk with your child about his or her concerns. Tension often reaches the boiling point when children feel they are facing a source of stress alone. Knowing that their worries can be expressed helps relieve some of the pressure and builds a more rewarding parent-child relationship.

Tell your child the truth about family matters and crises. If you do not provide honest and simple accounts of a stressful event, your child will probably create an even more alarming explanation.

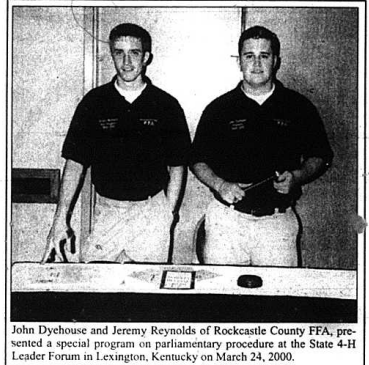
Involve your child in decision-making and problem-solving processes when dealing with sources of stress. This will encourage your

child's feelings of power and control. Sources of stress will be with your child throughout life, so by providing the necessary tools for handling stress now you will be helping him or her to cope with stress better in the future.

- Select good children's books about stress and fears to read with your child. Books can clear up misunderstandings and feelings for your child, as well as help you to discuss difficult topics.
- Provide physical outlets to vent build-up tension. Encourage your child to participate in physical

activity when pressures seem ready to explode. Possibly join your child in biking, swimming, running, or even gardening. It is also important to get plenty of rest and eat nutritionally balanced meals during periods of high stress.

Be generous with hugs, kisses, and other signs of affection. Your child needs love and understanding more than ever during times of stress. For more information or a free publication on Children and Stress, contact the Extension Office at 256-2403.



John Dyehouse and Jeremy Reynolds of Rockcastle County FFA, presented a special program on parliamentary procedure at the State 4-H Leader Forum in Lexington, Kentucky on March 24, 2000.

"It is Written"

Some have called John 1:16 the golden text of the Bible. Rightly so it is a marvelous passage of scripture. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Let's look at this great text.

"For God" the greatest being is concerned about us. "So loved" the greatest love for humanity was shown to us. "The world" the greatest number of people included. He loved us all. "That he gave his only begotten Son" the great gift that mankind has ever received. "That whosoever believeth in him" the greatest invitation is being offered to whoever will. "Should not perish" the greatest rescue is being offered to mankind. Saved from perishing in hell. "But have everlasting life" the greatest home that a man or woman could ever live in, a home in heaven. Have you taken advantage of these great promises of the gospel message? We are always happy to help serve people in the study of the word of God. If we could see if we could set a free Bible study with you, or if you would like to receive a FREE Bible correspondence course by mail.

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Rockcastle Beef Producers participate in Kansas tour

Rockcastle County Beef Producers and Agriculture Agent, Tom Mills, participated in the annual Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Feat and Carcass Test Study Tour to Kansas. Thirty six Kentuckians toured stops in Kansas which included Excell Processing Plant, Lane County Feeders, and the Hudson, Olean and Judd Ranches. The Excell plant processes 5,800 animals per day, 6 days per week. Lane County Feeders custom feeds 46,000 head and turns their load 2.5 times per year. This lot is currently feeding Kentucky's FACTS cattle and was chosen due to their efforts in sorting cattle by ultra-sounding. Ultra-sounding is being studied to help in determining when a carcass will grade choice. Stops at ranches looked at commercial and pure breed operation with Heifer, Angus, and Gelbush breeds. Above, beef producers attending the meeting were, from left: Jay Leger, Gary Hurst, Clinton Mullins, Ed Whitaker, Tom Mills, Donnie Hurst, Kevin Adams, Roy Reynolds and Tim Mink.

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